



LIVE WITH JDP

TikTok Your Public Testimony



A BRIEF HISTORY OF SEX EDUCATION IN TEXAS

1994-1995

Opponents to sex education attack information on contraception and sexual orientation in new health textbooks.

1997-1998

Opponents to sex education criticize **sole reference** to contraception in new health textbooks.

2004

The Texas School Board of Education (SBOE) adopts abstinence only textbooks that lack information about contraception and sexual orientation.

2020

The Texas School Board of Education (SBOE) undertakes first overhaul of health curriculum standards in more than 20 years!

TYPES OF SEX EDUCATION: PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

Abstinence-Only Education: teaches abstinence as the only morally correct option of sexual expression for teenagers. They usually censor information about contraception and condoms for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancy.

Abstinence-Plus Education: similar to abstinence-only. However, it also includes information about contraception and condoms but in the context of strong abstinence messages.

Comprehensive Sex Education: teaches about abstinence as the best method for avoiding STIs and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about condoms and contraception to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. It also teaches interpersonal and communication skills and helps young people explore their own values, goals, and options.

TYPES OF SEX EDUCATION: PROGRAM COMPARISONS

Abstinence-Only Education

Teaches that sexual expression outside of marriage will have harmful social, psychological, & physical consequences.

Teaches that abstinence from sexual intercourse before marriage is the only acceptable behavior.

Teaches only one set of values as morally correct for all students.

Usually omits controversial topics such as abortion, masturbation, and sexual orientation.

Discusses condoms only in terms of failure rates; often exaggerates condom failure rates.

Usually does not include LGBTQ+ inclusive sex education

Comprehensive Sex Education

Teaches that sexuality is a natural, normal, healthy part of life.

Provides values-based education & offers students the opportunity to explore and define their individual values as well as the values of their families and communities.

Includes accurate, scientifically based information on abortion, masturbation, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Teaches that consistent use of modern methods of contraception can greatly reduce a couple's risk for unintended pregnancy.

Supports and affirms students who are LGBTQ+ and offers sexual health information that is medically accurate & inclusive.

TYPES OF SEX EDUCATION: PROGRAM COMPARISONS

Abstinence-Only Education

Often includes inaccurate medical information and exaggerated statistics regarding STIs, including HIV.

Often uses fear tactics to promote abstinence and to limit sexual expression.

Provides no information on forms of contraception other than failure rates of condoms.

Often promotes specific religious values.

Teaches that carrying the pregnancy to term and placing the baby for adoption is the only morally correct option for pregnant teens.

Comprehensive Sex Education

Includes accurate medical information about STIs, including HIV; teaches that individuals can avoid STIs.

Provides positive messages about sexuality and sexual expression, including the benefits of abstinence.

Teaches that religious values can play an important role in an individual's decisions about sexual expression; offers students the opportunity to explore their own and their family's religious values.

Teaches that an individual faced with an unintended pregnancy has options: carrying the pregnancy to term and raising the baby, or carrying the pregnancy to term and placing the baby for adoption, or ending the pregnancy with an abortion.

WHAT DO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACH IN TEXAS?

58.3%

of public schools teach abstinence-only

25.1%

of public schools do not teach anything

16.6%

of public schools teach abstinence plus

HOW EFFECTIVE IS ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION IN TEXAS?

62.6%

The percent of Texas high school seniors who reported having engaged in sexual activity before graduation. This number is 5 percentage points higher than the national average.

60%

The percent of Texas teens who reported not using a condom the last time they had intercourse. This is 10 percentage points higher than the national average.

HOW ARE THESE POLICIES IMPACTING THE HEALTH OF TEENS IN TEXAS?

1

Texas has the highest rate in the country for STI infections among teens between the ages of 15-19.

15

Texas is ranked 15th highest in the country for gonorrhea and 17th highest in the country for syphilis.

21

Texas is ranked 21st highest in the country for chlamydia.

HOW ARE THESE POLICIES IMPACTING THE HEALTH OF TEENS IN TEXAS?

1 in 7

Female high school students reported experiencing sexual violence.

1 in 16

Male high school students reported experiencing sexual violence.

1 in 2

Teens in Texas reported having personally experienced dating violence.

HOW ARE THESE POLICIES IMPACTING THE HEALTH OF TEENS IN TEXAS?

7

Texas has consistently ranked near the top among the states in teen pregnancy and birth rates. In 2017, Texas had the 7th highest teen birth rate in the country.

1

In 2016, Texas had the highest rate of repeat births to teens — that is, births to teens who already had given birth in the country.

HOW ARE THESE POLICIES IMPACTING THE HEALTH OF TEENS IN TEXAS?

59.5%

LGBTQ+ students in the United States
felt unsafe at school because of their
sexual orientation.

44.6%

LGBTQ+ students in the United States
felt unsafe at school because of their
gender expression.

WHAT CAN TEENS DO TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE?

Young people can advocate for changes they would like to see in sex education in public schools across Texas by writing personal essays and opinion pieces. They can also take action by getting rowdy online on social media platforms like TikTok. Some additional ways young people can get involved is by:

- Testifying at their school district's sexual health advisory committee (SHAC) meetings or at the State Board of Education (SBOE) meetings
- Write letters or emails to members of the State Board of Education (SBOE)
- Learn how your school administrators are implementing district policies on sex education on your campus

UPCOMING SBOE MEETINGS IN 2020

Due to the pandemic, the SBOE has implemented public health and safety measures and moved some meetings online. The SBOE has not yet announced if the June meeting will be virtual or in-person. The meeting dates are tentative, and subject to change. For information about the meetings, or how to register and testify, visit the Texas Education Agency's SBOE website.

- June 29-July 3, 2020: This meeting will be a discussion and public hearing
- September 8-11, 2020: This meeting will be a first reading and public hearing
- November 17-20, 2020: This meeting will be a second reading and final adoption

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